

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1. (Previously Presented) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

awarding points to a member for each of the general programme areas in which the member participates, the points being allocated to members based on a multi-level system, including:

a first level, wherein the member is awarded points for merely taking part in a programme area,

a second level, wherein the member is awarded a greater number of points for taking part in all programme areas associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted, and

a third level, wherein the member is awarded points for attaining a minimum level for a measurable of a programme area associated with a disease with which the member is afflicted;

awarding points to a member for each of the specific programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is afflicted with a disease to which the specific programme area in which the member participates has been determined to be of particular benefit;

calculating a total number of points awarded to the member, and

allocating a reward to the member if the total number of points awarded to the member accumulates to a predetermined amount.

Claim 2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein points are only awarded to the member if the member participates in all the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

Claim 3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein additional points are awarded to the member if the member participates in all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease or diseases with which the member is afflicted.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

Claim 5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

Claim 6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
defining a measurable within at least one of the general or specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;
defining a minimum level of the measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the at least one programme area; and
awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of a measurable for the at least one programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area.

Claim 7. (Cancelled)

Claim 8. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;

defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and

allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

Claim 9. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein, additional points are awarded to the member if they obtain the minimum level of a measurable for all of the programme areas which are associated with the disease with which the member is afflicted.

Claim 10. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the general programme areas are some of diet, exercise, smoking and education.

Claim 11. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the specific programme areas are one or more of blood pressure, flow volume, loop measurement, influenza vaccine, pneumococcal vaccine, cholesterol and long term glucose control.

Claim 12. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

- defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;
- awarding points to a member for each of the programme areas in which the member participates, only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and
- allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

Claim 13. (Withdrawn) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the programme, the method comprising the steps of:

- defining a plurality of general programme areas and a plurality of specific programme areas, wherein the plurality of general programme areas are programme areas that if compiled with will be of benefit to a member stricken with any disease managed by the disease management programme and wherein the plurality of specific programme areas are programme areas that are determined to be of particular benefit to a member afflicted with some but not all of the diseases managed by the disease management programme;
- defining a measurable within each of the general and specific programme areas so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;
- defining a minimum level for each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within each of the programme areas;
- awarding points to a member if the member obtains the minimum level of a measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is predisposed to being afflicted with a

disease which is associated with that particular programme area; and
allocating a reward to the member if the points awarded to the member accumulate to a predetermined amount.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

Claim 17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the amount of the reward is related to the amount of points accumulated by the member.

Claim 18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 8 wherein the reward is a cash payout or special options on services.

Claim 19. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 18 wherein the services are one or more of airplane tickets, hotel accommodation and car rentals.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A method of incentivising members of a disease management programme to comply with the disease management programme, the method comprising the steps of:

defining a measurable within an exercise programme area as being two fitness assessments per year, at least five months apart, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within a smoking programme area as being a cotinine test, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a measurable within an education programme area as being a questionnaire prepared by managers of the disease management programme, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained;

defining a minimum level of each measurable, which minimum level indicates a minimum required level of member performance within the programme area, the minimum level being:

for the exercise programme area, maintaining a predetermined level of fitness,

for the smoking programme area, a negative cotinine test, and

for the education programme area, completing the questionnaire; and

awarding points to a member if the member obtains the defined minimum level of the measurable for a particular programme area only if the member is afflicted with a disease which is associated with a particular programme area.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, including the steps of:

defining a measurable within a pneumococcal vaccine programme area as being a pneumococcal vaccination, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the pneumococcal vaccine programme area is; receiving a pneumococcal vaccination once every five years; and

defining a measurable within a cholesterol programme area as being a cholesterol test once per year, so that a member's performance within said programme area can be ascertained, and in which the minimum level of member performance for the cholesterol programme area is: a cholesterol level of less than a predetermined level.